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Murphy Gives List of Demo 'Errors'

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George Murphy, who wants to be the Republican successor to Democrat Clair Engle in the U.S. Senate, said here yesterday he'd like to try his hand at getting the ship of state back on a straight course.

"The performance of this nation under Democrats has been so consistently bad that I can't believe it's a mistake," he told Junior Chamber of Commerce members in El Cortez Hotel.

"There must be someone wanting to make us look bad," Murphy said.

"I think when major mistakes have been made, another fellow should have a chance," he said.

Mistakes listed by Murphy were the Potsdam agreement after World War II, the takeover of China by Communists, the truce without victory in the Korean War, the neutralization of Laos, the invasion of Cuba, and the "horrible tragedy" of Viet Nam.

Murphy said the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency have been surprised too often.

Surprises on Murphy's list included the Russian missile buildup in Cuba, the rioting in Panama, and the uprising in Zanzibar.

"We are continually surprised . . . by Russian design," he said.

Murphy, longtime actor and now a film industry executive, described himself as a former dormant Democrat who became an active Republican after talking with high officials in the administration of President Roosevelt in 1939.

"What I learned about Washington in 1939 made me an active Republican."

He said he's been disturbed ever since with domestic and foreign policies of Democratic administrations.

Murphy said the Democrats have been lifting the government from the people and centralizing it with "the elite few."

He said government by the elite was started by advisers to Roosevelt "who either didn't understand our system or who didn't want to let our free enterprise system work."

The record shows, he said, that some of Roosevelt's advisers were Communists or fellow travelers.

"We'll be all right if we keep government in the hands of the people," he said.

"I intend to prove that the Republican form of government is better than the Democratic."

Murphy said that he made his decision to seek the GOP nomination before Engle's illness.

"I hope Engle is healed and fit to run because I'd like to run against him and his record," he said.

"I'm not a passive candidate. I love a scrap."

"If I win the nomination, you'll see the goshdarnedest campaign you ever saw," Murphy promised.

Murphy and Leland Kaiser of San Francisco, investment securities executive, are the only Republicans who have tossed their hats in the ring for U.S. senator.

Engle, who's recovering from a brain tumor operation, has announced he will again seek the Democratic nomination.